

PRESS RELEASE

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14 ARRESTS MADE IN 11 MILLION DOLLAR STOLEN INFANT FORMULA SCHEME

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, announces today that 14 were arrested as part of a Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) investigation of individuals trafficking in stolen infant formula. This case centers around a fencing operation for stolen or fraudulently obtained infant formula, which generates millions of dollars annually. The indictment alleges the profit from the conspiracy is in aggregate of 11 million dollars. The main target is Samih Jamal, D.O.B. 6/18/69 of Mesa, Arizona who operates Jamal Trading and other businesses in the greater Phoenix area. Samih Jamal employs others to steal or fraudulently obtain infant formula around the country and transport it to Phoenix Arizona and other locations. Additionally, 21 search warrants were executed in the Phoenix area and in Garden Grove, California.

The indictment alleges that on or about December 17, 1997, up to and including the present the defendants **Samih Fadl Jamal**, DOB 6/18/69 of Mesa, Arizona; **Tamer Fayez Swailem**, DOB 7/2/72 of Tempe, Arizona; **Marwan Fadl Jamal**, DOB 11/20/67 of Hammond, Louisiana; **Abdulrazzak Fadl Jamal**, DOB 12/10/79 of Tempe, Arizona; **Ramy Fadl Jamal**, DOB 9/5/78 of Garden Grove, California; **Mamoun**

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Al-Jamal, DOB 3/21/57 of Garden Grove, California; **Walid Fadl Jamal**, DOB 8/8/65 of Germany; **Hani Jamal Sarawan**, DOB 7/20/70 of Phoenix, Arizona; **Saad Toma Yohanan**, DOB 6/29/57 of California ; **Abdul Khaled khader Hamze**, DOB 9/1/79 of Mesa, Arizona; **Ahmad My Alhulaisi**, DOB 3/27/76; **Kahled Ahmad Noaman**, DOB 11/1/82 of Chandler, Arizona; **Ahmed Mohamed Ashry**, DOB 12/12/68; **Mustapha Mohamad Khodr**, DOB 12/19/79 of Tempe, Arizona; **Fadel Hindi**, DOB 7/7/66 of Phoenix, Arizona; **Abdelsalam Mohamad Abdelsalam**, DOB 6/7/62 of Apache Junction, Arizona; **Mohamad Anis Hemdani**, DOB 9/15/76; **Mounir Midani Daly**, DOB 7/19/78; **Rami Mahmoud Awwad**, DOB 12/11/76; **Sharif Kader Hamdan**, DOB 8/27/47 of Phoenix, Arizona; **Kamel Hamid Al-Fadheli**, DOB 4/2/67 of Phoenix, Arizona; **Nidal Mohammad Al-Shendi**, DOB 5/5/70 of Phoenix, Arizona; **Martha Ann Colwell**, DOB 1/31/48 of Peoria , Arizona ; **Sharon Faye King**, DOB 11/10/52 of Peoria, Arizona; **Slimane Hamzaoui**, DOB 9/4/64 of Chandler, Arizona; **Ibrahim Hassan Elrawy**, DOB 3/1/58 of Houston, Texas; **Alaa Ghasoub Obeid**, DOB 12/23/80 of Mesa, Arizona conspired to transport cases of stolen infant formula valued at more than \$5,000, in interstate commerce in violation of Title 18 of the United States Code sections 2314 and 2315. A conviction for violating Title 18 of the United States Code, section 2314 and 2315 carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,00 fine or both. Additionally, the indictment alleges that defendants conspired to commit money laundering during the same time period as the Interstate transportation of stolen property conspiracy in violation of Title 18 of the United States Code 1956(h). A conviction of Title 18 of the United States Code section 1956(h) carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$500,000 or twice the value of the monetary instrument or funds involved in the transportation, transmission, or transfer whichever is greater. Finally, the indictment further alleges that Samih Jamal made a false statement on three separate U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Stamp Program for Stores applications in violation of Title 18 of the United States Code section 1001. A conviction of Title 18 of the United States Code section 1001 carries a maximum penalty of five years,

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a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Maricopa County Attorney Rick Romley, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), Phoenix Police Department, Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), Arizona Department of Public Safety, Mesa Police Department, Scottsdale Police Department, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The prosecution is being handled by Kevin M. Rapp and Michael W. Kemp , Assistant United State Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-261-PHX-FJM

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